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greater amberjack possessed under the bag limit, as specified in § 622.40(a). Also note that if commercial quantities of Gulf reef fish, *i.e.*, Gulf reef fish in excess of applicable bag/possession limits, are on board the vessel, no bag limit of Gulf reef fish may be possessed, as specified in § 622.38(a)(2).

(b) [Reserved]

§ 622.37 Size limits.

All size limits in this section are minimum size limits unless specified otherwise. A fish not in compliance with its size limit, as specified in this section, in or from the Gulf EEZ, may not be possessed, sold, or purchased. A fish not in compliance with its size limit must be released immediately with a minimum of harm. The operator of a vessel that fishes in the EEZ is responsible for ensuring that fish on board are in compliance with the size limits specified in this section. See § 622.10 regarding requirements for landing fish intact.

(a) *Snapper*—(1) *Red snapper*—16 inches (40.6 cm), TL, for a fish taken by a person subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.38 (b)(3) and 13 inches (33.0 cm), TL, for a fish taken by a person not subject to the bag limit.

(2) *Lane snapper*—8 inches (20.3 cm), TL.

(3) *Vermilion snapper*—10 inches (25.4 cm), TL.

(4) *Cubera, gray, and yellowtail snappers*—12 inches (30.5 cm), TL.

(5) *Mutton snapper*—16 inches (40.6 cm), TL.

(b) *Grouper*—(1) *Gag*—22 inches (55.9 cm), TL.

(2) *Red grouper*—(i) For a person not subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.38 (b)(2)—18 inches (45.7 cm), TL.

(ii) For a person subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.38(b)(2)—20 inches (50.8 cm), TL.

(3) *Scamp*—16 inches (40.6 cm), TL.

(4) *Yellowfin grouper*—20 inches (50.8 cm), TL.

(5) *Black grouper*—(i) For a person not subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.38(b)(2)—24 inches (61.0 cm), TL.

(ii) For a person subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.38(b)(2)—22 inches (55.9 cm), TL.

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(c) *Other Gulf reef fish species*—(1) *Gray triggerfish*—14 inches (35.6 cm), fork length.

(2) *Hogfish*—12 inches (30.5 cm), fork length.

(3) *Banded rudderfish and lesser amberjack*—14 inches (35.6 cm), fork length (minimum size); 22 inches (55.9 cm), fork length (maximum size).

(4) *Greater amberjack*—30 inches (76 cm), fork length, for a fish taken by a person subject to the bag limit specified in § 622.38(b)(1) and 36 inches (91.4 cm), fork length, for a fish taken by a person not subject to the bag limit.

(d) A person aboard a vessel that has a Federal commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish and commercial quantities of Gulf reef fish, *i.e.*, Gulf reef fish in excess of applicable bag/possession limits, may not possess any Gulf reef fish that do not comply with the applicable commercial minimum size limit.

§ 622.38 Bag and possession limits.

(a) *Additional applicability provisions for Gulf reef fish.* (1) Section 622.11(a) provides the general applicability for bag and possession limits. However, § 622.11(a) notwithstanding, bag and possession limits also apply for Gulf reef fish in or from the EEZ to a person aboard a vessel that has on board a commercial permit for Gulf reef fish—

(i) When trawl gear or entangling net gear is on board. A vessel is considered to have trawl gear on board when trawl doors and a net are on board. Removal from the vessel of all trawl doors or all nets constitutes removal of trawl gear.

(ii) When a longline or buoy gear is on board and the vessel is fishing or has fished on a trip in the reef fish longline and buoy gear restricted area specified in § 622.35(c). A vessel is considered to have a longline on board when a power-operated longline hauler, a cable of diameter and length suitable for use in the longline fishery, and gangions are on board. Removal of any one of these three elements, in its entirety, constitutes removal of a longline.

(iii) For a species/species group when its quota has been reached and closure has been effected, provided that no commercial quantities of Gulf reef fish,

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i.e., Gulf reef fish in excess of applicable bag/possession limits, are on board as specified in paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(iv) When the vessel has on board or is tending any trap other than a stone crab trap or a spiny lobster trap.

(2) A person aboard a vessel that has a Federal commercial vessel permit for Gulf reef fish and commercial quantities of Gulf reef fish, *i.e.*, Gulf reef fish in excess of applicable bag/possession limits, may not possess Gulf reef fish caught under a bag limit.

(b) *Bag limits*—(1) *Greater amberjack*—1. However, no greater amberjack may be retained by the captain or crew of a vessel operating as a charter vessel or headboat. The bag limit for such captain and crew is zero.

(2) *Groupers, combined, excluding goliath grouper*—4 per person per day, but not to exceed 1 speckled hind or 1 warsaw grouper per vessel per day, or 2 gag per person per day. However, no grouper may be retained by the captain or crew of a vessel operating as a charter vessel or headboat. The bag limit for such captain and crew is zero. (Note: Nassau grouper in the Gulf EEZ may not be harvested or possessed, as specified in § 622.181(b)(4).)

(3) *Red snapper*—2. However, no red snapper may be retained by the captain or crew of a vessel operating as a charter vessel or headboat. The bag limit for such captain and crew is zero.

(4) *Snappers, combined, excluding red, lane, and vermilion snapper*—10.

(5) *Gulf reef fish, combined, excluding those specified in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(4) and paragraphs (b)(6) through (b)(7) of this section*—20. In addition, within the 20-fish aggregate reef fish bag limit, no more than 2 fish may be gray triggerfish and no more than 10 fish may be vermilion snapper.

(6) *Banded rudderfish and lesser amberjack, combined*—5.

(7) *Hogfish*—5.

(c) *Possession limits*. A person, or a vessel in the case of speckled hind or Warsaw grouper, on a trip that spans more than 24 hours may possess no more than two daily bag limits, provided such trip is on a vessel that is operating as a charter vessel or headboat, the vessel has two licensed operators aboard, and each passenger is issued

and has in possession a receipt issued on behalf of the vessel that verifies the length of the trip.

[78 FR 22952, Apr. 17, 2013, as amended at 78 FR 27087, May 9, 2013; 78 FR 46822, Aug. 2, 2013; 78 FR 78775, Dec. 27, 2013]

§ 622.39 Quotas.

See § 622.8 for general provisions regarding quota applicability and closure and reopening procedures. This section, provides quotas and specific quota closure restrictions for Gulf reef fish.

(a) *Gulf reef fish*—(1) *Commercial quotas*. The following quotas apply to persons who fish under commercial vessel permits for Gulf reef fish, as required under § 622.20(a)(1).

(i) *Commercial quota for red snapper*—5.610 million lb (2.545 million kg), round weight.

(ii) Deep-water groupers (DWG) have a combined quota, as specified in paragraphs (a)(1)(ii)(A) through (E) of this section. These quotas are specified in gutted weight, that is eviscerated, but otherwise whole.

(A) For fishing year 2012—1.127 million lb (0.511 million kg).

(B) For fishing year 2013—1.118 million lb (0.507 million kg).

(C) For fishing year 2014—1.110 million lb (0.503 million kg).

(D) For fishing year 2015—1.101 million lb (0.499 million kg).

(E) For fishing year 2016 and subsequent fishing years—1.024 million lb (0.464 million kg).

(iii) Shallow-water groupers (SWG) have separate quotas for gag and red grouper and a combined quota for other shallow-water grouper (Other SWG) species (including black grouper, scamp, yellowfin grouper, and yellowmouth grouper), as specified in paragraphs (a)(1)(iii)(A) through (C) of this section. These quotas are specified in gutted weight, that is, eviscerated but otherwise whole.

(A) *Other SWG combined*. (1) For fishing year 2012—509,000 lb (230,879 kg).

(2) For fishing year 2013—518,000 lb (234,961 kg).

(3) For fishing year 2014—523,000 lb (237,229 kg).

(4) For fishing year 2015 and subsequent fishing years—525,000 lb (238,136 kg).